

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 /025 W

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R 030910Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8702

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY ASEAN

SUBJ: ASEAN MEETINGS

REF: A) KL 6165

B) KL 5609

1. SUMMARY: ASEAN MEETINGS IN THAILAND JAN 3 - 8 WILL
CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF SECRETARIAT AND POLITICAL RELATIONS,
BUT HIGH PRIORITY IS APPARENTLY NOT BEING GIVEN TO SOUTHEAST
ASIA NEUTRALIZATION SCHEME. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL TAN SRI ZAITON
IBRAHIM DEPARTED KL JAN 2 TO ATTEND ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS'
MEETING JAN 3 - 4 IN BANGKOK AND SPECIAL MEETING ON ESTABLISH-
MENT OF ASEAN SECRETARIAT JAN 6 - 8 IN PATTAYA. ZAITON WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ALBERT
TALALLA WHO HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ASEAN NEGOTIATIONS ON
CREATION OF SEASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.

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3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JAN 2, THAI EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY (CHAWAT) SAID THAT NEUTRALIZATION WOULD NOT BE PRIME TOPIC OF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING, BUT THAT ROMULO PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL NON-AGGRESSION PACT AND COOPERATION IN SELECTED INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY FIELDS (E.G., RELATIONS WITH PRC) WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED. CHAWAT AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT (REF A) THAT GOM IS CURRENTLY GIVING LESS PRIORITY TO NEUTRALIZATION SCHEME, COMMENTING THAT HE WAS "STRUCK" BY PM RAZAK'S STATEMENT AT BUTTERWORTH AFB ON DEC 30 IN THAT THERE WAS NO CALL FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN BASES FROM SEASIA. MALAYSIANS, CHAWAT ADDED, NOW APPARENTLY APPRECIATE RTG POSITION THAT WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND, FOR EXAMPLE, DEPENDS IN FIRST INSTANCE ON THAI SECURITY NEEDS. CHAWAT REFERRED IN PASSING TO RTG DECISION (APPARENTLY RESULT OF A RECENT POLICY REVIEW) THAT U.S. BASE PRESENCE IS DEPENDENT ON FUTURE RTG RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. HE SAID THAT RTG EXPECTS "BREAK" IN CAMBODIA, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, BEFORE NEXT SESSION OF UNGA.

4. REGARDING ASEAN SECRETARIAT, CHAWAT COMMENTED THAT CONSENSUS IS EMERGING FOR CREATION OF SMALL SECRETARIAT TO SERVE AS COORDINATING BODY. CLAIMING HE IS NOT INFORMED OF ALL THE DETAILS, CHAWAT SAID THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG SENIOR ASEAN OFFICIALS DURING VISIT TO EEC BRUSSELS AND HEADQUARTERS OF OTHER EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN EARLY DEC (REF B) RESULTED IN REALIZATION THAT SECRETARIAT OF MODEST PROPORTIONS AND TASKS IS BEST. (AN MFA SOURCE WHO ACCOMPANIED ZAITON ON EUROPEAN TRIP REMARKED RECENTLY THAT ASEAN OFFICIALS FOUND EFTA AND NORDIC COUNCIL STRUCTURES TO BE MOST APPLICABLE TO ASEAN NEEDS AND INTERESTS.)

5. CHAWAT SAID NEXT ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE IN EARLY MAY. HE UNDERSTANDS PM RAZAK WANTS TO ATTEND FOR MALAYSIA THIS YEAR (IN PAST FEW YEARS DEPUTY PM HUSSEIN ONN OR THE LATE TUN ISMAIL ATTENDED FOR GOM), SO MINISTERIAL WILL BE HELD SUBSEQUENT TO RAZAK'S PLANNED TRIP TO EUROPE IN APRIL. (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF POSSIBLE RAZAK VISIT TO EUROPE.)
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UNDERHILL

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